



News You Can Use

**U. S. Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Oakland Operations Office**



50 Years of service in support of America's national defense

December 2002

DOE Opens Radioactive Waste Storage Area at Livermore Lab

Under Secretary for Energy, Science and Environment Robert Card authorized the startup of the RWSA on September 13 and LLNL began transferring transuranic wastes to the facility on September 23.

The RWSA is part of LLNL's Decontamination and Waste Treatment Facility (DWTF), which replaces the current 40-year old facility with a safer, centralized, integrated and more environmentally protective facility for the staging, treatment, and processing of hazardous, radioactive and mixed waste at LLNL. The design for the project was completed in 1996 and consisted of two major components, the newly opened RWSA, and the remainder of the DWTF which houses the waste treatment activities. Construction proceeded in phases to better coincide with the schedule necessary to obtain required permits. However, final construction could not occur until LLNL received a Resource Conservation Recovery Act hazardous waste permit from the State of California in December 1999.

The RWSA was completed first and will have some limited capability for storage of wastes while the remainder of the DWTF is being completed and undergoes safety analysis.

Now that the RWSA is open DOE and LLNL will concentrate on installing equipment in the remainder of the DWTF. DWTF's operations are more complex than RWSA (waste treatment versus waste storage) so the safety review process will take more time. LLNL has resubmitted the DWTF Final Safety Analysis Report, which ensures that the assumptions regarding safety for the facility are maintained. DOE will review the report and either grant or deny approval for LLNL to proceed. If approval is denied, LLNL will be required to make changes based on DOE's recommendations. If approval is received, LLNL will perform and complete its Operational Readiness Review (ORR). The ORR is expected to occur in April 2003. DOE will then conduct its own ORR in July of 2003 and pending final approval, will begin startup in August of 2003.

Attention Nuclear Weapons Workers

Nuclear weapons workers or their survivors can get help applying for benefits under a new federal workers' compensation program at a traveling resource center from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at one of the following locations:

Monday and Tuesday, December 2 and 3
Four Points Hotel by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Road
Pleasanton, CA 94566 / (925) 460-8800

Wednesday and Thursday, December 4 and 5
Oakland Marriott (City Center), 1001 Broadway
Oakland, CA 9460712 / (510) 451-4000

The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act provides up to \$150,000 compensation to nuclear weapons workers who became ill as a result of exposure to radiation, beryllium or silica on the job. Workers' survivors are also eligible. Call toll-free (866) 697-0841 to make an appointment, however, walk-ins will be welcome.

Inside This Issue

- ~ The Edward Teller Education Center Awarded Rural Education Grant
- ~ OAK Recognized as One of Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters
- ~ DOE Public Comment Period on Draft EA for SLAC's LCLS Project
- ~ Public Comment Period Ends for BSL-3 Facility
- ~ NNSA/OAK Developing SWEIS for LLNL
- ~ East Avenue Security Upgrade
- ~ OAK Joined National Labs in Hosting Technical Information Exchange (TIE)
- ~ SSFL Workgroup Meeting
- ~ Sign Up Now to Compete in Bay Area Regional High School Science Bowls
- ~ Discover LLNL's New Visitor Center
- ~ Please Contact Us
- ~ Useful Web Sites



***Congratulations DOE
on Your 25th Anniversary!***

The Edward Teller Education Center Awarded Rural Education Grant

The Edward Teller Education Center (ETEC) was awarded a grant from Washington Mutual, Inc., to support professional development of science educators working in rural communities. This grant is the result of ETEC's participation in the Rural Education Summit sponsored by California Senator Richard Monteith and Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza in October 2001. This is the first non-University of California grant awarded to ETEC. Dr. Edward Teller accepted the award on behalf of the University of California teacher professional development center named for him.

OAK Recognized as One of the Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters

OAK has been placed on the first-ever list of **The Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters**, which spotlights employers that are committed to reducing traffic and air pollution and improving quality of life for commuters in the Bay Area. OAK is being recognized for providing employees with excellent commuter benefits, including a Guaranteed / Emergency Ride Home program, monthly transit/vanpool pass subsidies, a significant telecommuting program that averages 6 percent of the daily workforce, shuttle services, ridesharing services, compressed/flexible work schedules, and a central point of contact to actively inform employees about the commuter benefits offered. OAK also utilizes internal communications tools to update employees on major traffic and public transportation problems.

The list was compiled by the Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters Coalition, which includes the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Bay Area Council, EPA, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Northern California Human Resources Association, RIDES for Bay Area Commuters, Inc., Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group, and Yahoo! Inc.

On September 24, the coalition launched **The Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters** with an invitation letter and application form to 6,500 Bay Area organizations. Of the 6,500 organizations in the Bay Area, OAK was one of 82 employers to qualify for the award.

DOE Public Comment Period on Draft EA for SLAC's Proposed LCLS Project

DOE/OAK released the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center's (SLAC) proposed Linac Coherent Light Source (LCLS) project for public comment. The EA discusses DOE's proposal to construct the LCLS at SLAC. The document highlights three construction/use alternatives and the impacts of those alternatives.

The LCLS would be the world's first x-ray free electron laser that would produce x-ray laser pulses that are billions of times more intense than those from existing synchrotron sources. The LCLS would take advantage of the existing infrastructure at SLAC and would utilize the existing 3 km linear accelerator (linac). A new photoinjector would be installed at sector 20 of the 30 sector linear and the last kilometer of the linac would be modified to accelerate the electrons to be used in the LCLS. A 120 meter long undulator magnet would be fabricated and installed in the existing Final Focus Test Beam facility and two new experimental halls would be constructed. The LCLS would further DOE's mission of planning, constructing, and operating user facilities to provide special scientific and research capabilities to serve the needs of U.S. universities, industry, and Federal laboratories.

To view a copy of the draft EA, log onto:
www-ssrl.slac.stanford.edu/lcls/documents/LCLS-Report_9-14-02.pdf.

Public Comment Period Ends for BLS-3 Facility

The DOE/NNSA has responsibility for programs to reduce and counter threats from weapons of mass destruction including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. NNSA's bioscience work at LLNL in support of these missions requires work with infectious agents, including those historically used for bioweapons. The need to conduct research with infective agents in a secure environment at LLNL and within NNSA is growing rapidly. The Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) Laboratory Facility at LLNL will provide NNSA with a facility that is environmentally safe and physically secure allowing for the manipulation and storage of infectious microorganisms, many of which are potential bio-weapon agents. This research will provide for increased understanding of emerging and re-emerging natural diseases and methods of control/neutralizing.

In August 2002, NNSA/OAK announced the availability of a draft EA for the construction of the BSL-3 Laboratory Facility at LLNL that will fulfill this critical mission. Originally, the public was given 30 days to provide comments/questions to NNSA/OAK. However, at the request of other agencies and the public, the deadline was extended to September 16 to allow community members additional opportunities to provide feedback on the proposal. All total, NNSA/OAK received approximately 90 comments from the public. NNSA/OAK is currently in the process of evaluating those comments and incorporating, where appropriate, those comments in the final EA which officials hope to have completed before the end of the month.

NNSA/OAK Developing SWEIS for LLNL

The Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being developed by NNSA/OAK to evaluate the environmental effects of continued operation of LLNL. As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, four public scoping meetings were held in July 2002 to receive comments on the scope of the Site-Wide EIS. Approximately 250 individuals and organizations provided comments during this period. The comments covered several major areas, which include; DOE and NEPA policy, scope and alternatives, environmental impacts, and project specific concerns. The next step in the process is to develop a draft Site-Wide EIS and distribute it for review some time in the fall of 2003. For additional information contact Thomas Grim at (925) 422-0704.

East Avenue Security Upgrade

Community members have responded to NNSA/OAK's request for comments regarding the proposal to administratively control a portion of East Avenue between South Vasco and Greenville Roads adjacent to the Livermore Lab. These responses are included in the Final EA as an appendix. The Final EA and the Finding of No Significant Impact were approved on September 25. On October 21, the City of Livermore Council met and voted to abandon a 300-foot easement to East Avenue, completing the process of returning full control back to the DOE. Work is now underway on the final design of the road improvements with the majority of the improvements expected to be in place by early summer 2003.

OAK Joined National Labs in Hosting Technical Information Exchange (TIE)

The Fourteenth Technical Information Exchange (TIE) workshop, hosted by OAK, LLNL, and LBNL, was held Tuesday, November 12 through Thursday, November 14, 2002 at the Oakland Marriott Hotel in historic downtown Oakland. This year's TIE workshop focused on issues identified in DOE's Office of Environmental Management Top-to-Bottom Review. The workshop featured technical sessions that illustrated to attendees the effective use of resources to deploy better products and methods, enhance safety, reduce risk, and reduce costs associated with environmental restoration and waste management. These workshops will also included concurrent sessions, breakout sessions, an evening reception at Oakland's Preservation Park, and excellent training opportunities. Site tours were offered to registered participants to LLNL, LBNL, and SLAC on November 14 and Advancing California's Emerging Technologies in Alameda on November 15. For more information on the TIE workshop, log onto www.em.doe.gov/tie.

SSFL Workgroup Meeting

The next Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) Workgroup meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, December 11, from 6:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. The location of the meeting was not determined at our deadline. For additional information, contact EPA Project Manager for SSFL, John Beach, at (415) 972-3347.

Sign Up Now to Compete in Bay Area Regional High School Science Bowls

OAK, Sandia National Laboratory (SNL) and Las Positas College (LPC) are accepting applications for two Regional Science Bowls being held in the Bay Area. SNL and LPC will host the first regional on Saturday, February 1, 2003 at the LPC campus at 3033 Collier Canyon Road in Livermore. OAK will then host the second regional on Saturday, February 8, 2003 in the Oakland Federal Building at 1301 Clay Street in Oakland. High Schools can compete in either competition. The first 24 teams that register, based on the postmarked or faxed application, will be entered. Schools within each primary area that submit the application before a cut-off date of Saturday, November 30, 2002, will have first priority on a first come, first served basis for the first 20 (of the total of 24) places in that competition. All schools will be notified of their status (i.e., one of the 24 teams, alternate, etc.) by Friday, December 6, 2002. Alternate teams can choose to be on a waiting list or be entered in the other regional if space is available. No school can enter more than one regional competition.

At each Regional Science Bowl, all participating individuals will receive a continental breakfast, lunch, T-shirts, and various gifts. First, second and third place team trophies will also be awarded. The winner of each regional competition qualifies to compete in DOE's National Science Bowl® on Thursday, May 1 through Monday, May 5, 2003 in Washington, DC. DOE will cover all expenses for travel as well as accommodations and organized activities at the national competition. The Science Bowl is a question-and-answer competition with buzzers, judges, and timekeepers. A competition format of round robin and modified double elimination will be used. For additional information or to request a registration package, contact either RoseAnn Pelzner-Goodwin (OAK) at (510) 637-3195 or Annette Hoff (SNL) at (925) 294-2807.

Discover LLNL's New Visitor Center

Discover Livermore Lab's contributions to national security and national science. Experience a broad-based display of the scientific technology developed at LLNL. Learn about the lab's research and rich history in areas such as defense, homeland security, and new energy sources. Discover all of this during a visit to the Lab's newly renovated Visitors Center, renamed the **Discovery Center**. The Discovery Center is located on Greenville Road just outside the Lab's East Gate and is open from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Call (925) 422-5815 for more information.

Useful Web Sites

DOE http://www.energy.gov	LLNL http://www.llnl.gov
NNSA http://www.nnsa.doe.gov	SLAC http://www.slac.stanford.edu
OAK http://www.oak.doe.gov	University of California http://www.labs.ucop.edu
LBNL http://www.lbl.gov	SNL (Livermore, CA) http://www.ca.sandia.gov/index.html

Please Contact Us

- ~ Have you had a name or address change?
- ~ Would you like to be added or deleted from the mailing list?
- ~ Would you like to receive notifications of upcoming issues via e-mail instead of hard copy?

Charlene D. Pugh

News You Can Use

U.S. Department of Energy

National Nuclear Security Administration

Oakland Operations Office

Office of Public Affairs

1301 Clay Street, North Tower, Room 700N

Oakland, CA 94612-5208

Phone: (510) 637-1819

E-mail: charlene.pugh@oak.doe.gov

U.S. Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Oakland Operations Office
Office of Public Affairs
1301 Clay Street, North Tower, Room 700N
Oakland, CA 94612-5208

